



Exploring God's Love through the Bible:
God's Love Expressed to the Church in Rome
Jan 15, 2017

TEXT: ROMANS 5:1-11

- I believe that The Epistle of Paul to the Romans might be the most thorough statement of soteriological doctrine (the love of God in saving us!) in the New Testament.
- It was likely written from Corinth, prior to 1st and 2nd Corinthians, in the late 50's AD.
- MacArthur writes: "The overarching of Romans is the righteousness that comes from God: the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith in Christ alone."
- The seventeenth-century English Puritan, Thomas Draxe called Romans, "The quintessence and perfection of saving doctrine."
- MacDonald writes, "Romans has always stood at the head of Paul's letters, and rightly so. Since Acts ends with Paul's arrival in Rome, it is logical to have the Epistle section of the NT begin with the apostle's letter to the Roman church, written before he visited the Christians there. More decisively, Romans is the most important book theologically in the whole NT, being as close to a systematic presentation of Christian theology as will be found in God's word."
- He says again, "Romans is a classic. To the unsaved it offers a clear exposition of their sinful, lost condition and God's righteous plan for saving them. New believers learn of their identification with Christ and of victory through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mature believers find never-ending delight in its wide spectrum of Christian truth: doctrinal, prophetic, and practical."

THOUGHTS ON OUR TEXT:

1. Paul, having been discussing justification by faith, begins to extol and laud the love of God in Christ towards us.
2. If you can excuse less exegesis and more exhortation, simply breathe in the love of God presented in these verses!
 - A. God's love in Christ gives us, His former enemies, **peace** with God! (v1)
 - B. God's love in Christ grants us access to His **Grace**! We are in a privileged position! (v2)
 - C. God's love in Christ gives us the ability to **rejoice** in the hope of the Glory of God! (v2)

- D. God's love in Christ enables us not only to glory in tribulations, but also to be blessed to maturity therein! (v3-4)
- E. God's love in Christ causes our own hearts to be filled with Spirit-given **charity**! (v5)
- F. God's love in Christ **saves** us! (vv6-10) Precious saints...

Because of God's great love in Jesus, we are saved from the wrath to come! Jesus, because of love that surpasses all human understanding, died for us, the ungodly. He died, not for the righteous, but for filthy, rebellious, sinners! His suffering and death, and His glorious resurrection, and His sovereign choosing of we who are redeemed, means we are justified, or accounted as righteous, before a perfectly pure and holy God! Oh, rejoice in this! On our best day our righteousness is a dirty, filthy rags. Yet we've been declared holy because of the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) of the Son of God! We are saved from wrath through Jesus Christ alone!

So if God treated us with such kindness when we were His enemies, how much more can we live a "saved life" because of His life? How much more can our joy be untethered from worldly circumstances as we behold, in increasing glory, the Master who saved us? Joy! Joy unspeakable!

- G. Yes, God's love in Christ gives us **JOY**!
- H. God's love in Christ **reconciles** us! MacDonald writes:

Reconciliation refers to the establishment of harmony between God and man through the sacrificial work of the Savior. The entrance of sin had brought estrangement, alienation, and enmity between man and God. By putting away sin, which had caused the alienation, the Lord Jesus restored those who believe on Him to a state of harmony with God. We should note, in passing, that God did not need to be reconciled. It was man who needed it, because he was at enmity with God.

- 3. Oh friends, may we never lose our joy and awe of the loving, saving grace of Jesus! May we live for Him regardless of the cost!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Rom 1:16-17)

THE BALANCE OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE IN ROMANS

LOVING WARNINGS

- Romans 1:18-32; 2:1-4
- Romans 16:17-20

LOVING HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING THE DEVASTATING NATURE OF SIN

- Romans 3:10-12, 20-23
- Romans 7:7-13

A LOVING VISION FOR LIFE IN THE SPIRIT!

- Romans 8:1-14

LOVING HOPE FOR ISRAEL

- Romans 11:1-5, 26-27

A LOVING CALL TO HOLINESS

- Romans 12:1-2

PRACTICAL PRECEPTS OF LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- Romans 12:9-21

Oh the mercy and love of God!

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Rom 8:35-37)

PAUL'S DOXOLOGY

Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. (Rom 16:25-27)

Amen Indeed! :)